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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 29, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks. Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on March 29, 2006. Applicants request a five (5) month extension of time to respond to the Office Action. Applicants enclose a Request for Continued Examination. This action is timely filed as October 29, 2006 is a Sunday.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2;

Remarks begin on page <u>14</u>.

Preliminary Amendment Appl. No.: 09/927,914 Docket No.: 43373-0008